

## Ambassador Feinstein's Remarks for the 9/11

### Concert

Panie prezydencie, pani prezydentowo, drodzy przyjaciele, dziękuję wszystkim za przybycie, za to, że będziemy mogli razem wysłuchać tak wyjątkowego koncertu: *September Symphony* Wojciecha Kilara.

Mr. President, First Lady, dear friends, I thank you for being with us this evening for this special performance of Wojciech Kilar's *September Symphony*.

It is a great comfort to Elaine and me, and to our friends from the United States, that President Komorowski and the First Lady would honor us here tonight.

Panie Prezydencja, Pani Prezydentowo, dziękujemy.

People frequently ask us what it is like to be so far away from home on an anniversary such as this.

And our answer is quick and easy: **W Polsce czujemy się w domu.** We feel right at home, here in Poland. Especially on a day like today, in the friendship and solidarity Poles have always shown to Americans -- and to all people who cherish freedom.

History has brought Poles and Americans together. And, so too, after 9/11. In our moment of need, Americans looked to one other for consolation and support. We also looked to our friends around the world. No one responded more quickly or with greater conviction than Poland.

In the days and weeks after September 11, Poles stood by the United States. After the attacks you sent letters and laid flowers. My embassy friends still remember the wave of heat from the thousands of candles you placed on Aleje Ujazdowskie in the days after the attacks.

Over the years you have erected monuments in towns and cities small and large, from Krakow to Kielce, from Bialystok to Olsztyn.

Of course, over the last ten years, Poland showed solidarity with the United States not only with commemorations. We are grateful for Polish sacrifice and we honor that sacrifice today, as well.

In the past decade, terrorists have failed to achieve their goals. In talking about his magnificent symphony earlier this week, Maestro Kilar said that in responding to tragedy, “Americans seek something to enhance their positive thinking. They do not despair. They get their act together.” And, indeed, this has been the international reaction to 9/11.

Rather than being paralyzed by the violent actions of few, people around the world have steadily and stubbornly continued to build better futures for themselves and their children, and have helped their neighbors do the same. And from Belarus to Benghazi they look to the United States and Poland for inspiration.

As we honor the victims of the 9/11 attacks, let us take comfort in Maestro Kilar's music and the other performances tonight.

It is a great privilege to represent the United States in Poland, and never more so than on this day, when in remembering our grief, Poles and Americans reaffirm our commitment to live our lives freely and without fear; and to help others share in the blessings of liberty we are privileged to enjoy. Thank you.